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Date

6/14/04

Signature

Vickie Jones

### IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

First Named Inventor: Kazuyo  
WATANABE

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Conf. No.: 5329

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Appln. No.: 10/802,681

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Filing Date: March 17, 2004

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Title: IMAGE PROCESSING METHOD AND IMAGE PROCESSING APPARATUS

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Group Art Unit: 2621

Examiner: To Be Assigned

Attorney Docket No.: 9976-

27US(OB0055US)

### INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b)

Enclosed are copies of each of the documents listed on the attached Information Disclosure Citation Form(s) PTO/SB/08A and/or B, which may be material to the patentability of this application and/or for which there may be a duty to disclose in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.56.

The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as an admission that any of the listed documents constitutes prior art, nor as an admission against interest in any manner.

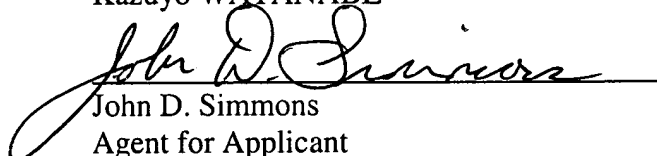
No fee is believed to be due in connection with the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement since it is being filed within three months of the filing date of the above-identified application. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiencies or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-1017.

It is respectfully requested that this Information Disclosure Statement and the documents listed on the attached Form PTO/SB/08A and/or B be considered and acknowledged by the Examiner in connection with the above-identified patent application, be made of record therein, and that the listed document(s) be cited in the issued patent.

Respectfully submitted,

Kazuyo WATANABE

June 14, 2004  
(Date)

  
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Enclosures

Form PTO/SB/08A

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE  
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(use as many sheets as necessary)

**Complete if Known**

<b>Application Number</b>	10/802,681
<b>Filing Date</b>	March 17, 2004
<b>First Named Inventor</b>	Kazuyo WATANABE
<b>Group Art Unit</b>	2621
<b>Examiner Name</b>	To Be Assigned
<b>Attorney Docket Number</b>	9976-27US(OB0055US)

Sheet	1	of	1
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## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

[illegible]

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Exr Initials	Foreign Patent Document			Name of Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-YYYY	T <sub>1</sub>
	Country Code	Number	Kind Code (if known)			
	JP	2000-134467	A	Canon, Inc.	05-2000	X*
				* = Abstract Only		

## OTHER PRIOR ART - NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Exr Initials	Include Name of first Author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (where appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), volume-issue number(s), page(s), date (in parentheses). If a book, also include publisher and city and/or county where published.	T <sub>1</sub>

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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T<sub>1</sub> - Place a check mark if complete document is in English; otherwise, place a letter "A" if only an English abstract is attached.